

had observed the evils of close inbreeding. Inbreeding maintains the excellence of a breed at the expense of its vigor. Outbreeding (unless too far out) develops vigor at the expense of the characteristic traits. It is very probable, but not absolutely certain, that inbreeding is harmful. Any marriage between persons who have the same faults of inheritance causes the offspring to accumulate faults and to degenerate. Close kinship creates a probable danger that faults will be accumulated. This is a logical deduction. Embryology, at present, seems to teach that there is a combination and extrusion of germ units of such a kind that the physiological process conforms only in a measure to this logical deduction, and the historical-statistical verification of the harm of inbreeding remains very imperfect. It is possible that at first, and within limits, inbreeding is not harmful, but becomes such if repeated often. Is it possible that the lowest savages can have perceived this and built a policy on it? Morgan¹ thinks that it is possible. Westermarck² thinks it beyond the mental power of the lowest races. He thinks that, by natural selection, those groups which practiced inbreeding for any reason died out or were displaced by those who followed the other policy. He goes on to propose a theory that persons who grew up, or who now grow up, in intimacy develop an instinctive antipathy to sex relations with each other.³ While it is true that primitive savages do not observe and reflect, it is also true that, in their own blundering way, when their interests are sharply at stake, they do observe, and they change their ways accordingly. Therefore they appear to us at one time hopelessly brutish; at another time we are amazed at their ingenuity and their mental

activity (myths,
legends, proverbs, maxims). If the loss or pain is
great enough,
the savage man is capable of astounding cleverness
to escape it.
After animal breeding began men had ample
opportunity to
observe the effects of close inbreeding. There is
more doubt now
about the penalties of inbreeding than there is about
the power of
savage men to perceive them and try to escape
them, if they exist.
511. Status-wife, work-wife, love-wife. In the
primitive horde
it appears that there was a prescribed wife for
each man, or the

¹ *Anc. Soc.*, 424. ² *Marriage* ^ 317. » /&'</. 319, 334,
352.